

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## MISSION

The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining the City's water, sewer, and street systems for the protection of the public safety and improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of Leominster. Also, to maintain the street infrastructure for safe and efficient movement of people, goods and services to enhance the economic vitality and livability of the city as measured by PCI rating.

## Public Works Staff

Patrick LaPointe, Director

Raymond Racine, General

Construction Inspections

Butch LaPointe, General Foreman  
Highway

Neil Taylor, General Foreman  
Forestry-Cemetery

Matt Marro, City Chemist

Norma Johnson, Lab Analyst

## Engineering

Gordon Robertson, City Engineer

John Roseberry, City Engineer

Yulenny Reyes, Engineering Intern

## Office Staff

Ruth Tyler, Utility Billing

Roseanna Baldini, Utility Permitting

Carol Allain, Payroll/Personnel

Dolores Garceau, Accounts Payable

Roger Brooks, Water/Sewer  
Business Manager

Skip Poirier, Inspector

## Meeting DEP Consent Order

Bascom Street, the subject of a state order to repair, finally saw work completed on April 29, 2003. The completed Relief Sewer line runs from Marguerite Avenue, up Central Street and Graham Street, across backyards on Union Street, under Union Street at Union Place and across the brook to Bascom Street. This work was done by two private contractors Tandem Construction and Blue Diamond Construction. This new relief sewer provides temporary hydraulic relief to the Bascom Street catchment area.



**Relocating Water Main on  
Graham St.**

The City has been actively addressing Infiltration/Inflow issues on a citywide basis for the past several years. Including Bascom Street, the high priority areas are Industrial Road and the Granite Street trunk line that runs along Rockwell Pond. This program will be costly and time consuming. In August 2001, the City implemented an I/I remediation charge as part of new sewer connection fees to help pay for this program. To date, these assessments have totaled \$90,000. We have also been actively pursuing state and federal funding for sewer relief in the Industrial Road area.

During construction of the new relief sewer on the Graham Street portion, Blue Diamond encountered an unexpected problem. The water main was in a different location than shown on historical plans. This water main was moved to the right side of the road to accommodate the new sewer main. Our Water Department crew then came in to tie in both ends of the water main in the Spring. Keyspan Engergy also upgraded the gas main. When all work was completed, the road was reclaimed and a base/binder course of pavement was put down to ensure smooth travel.

## Pearl Street Project

The DPW secured a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$21,000 for the construction of a new sewer main to be installed on Pearl Street in the summer of 2003. This project has been in need of funding for the last seven years. The DPW Construction Crew completed a Streetscape Project with CDBG funds to install granite curbing, concrete sidewalks, trees and ornamental fencing.

## **MA Highway Projects**

### **Merriam Avenue Bridge Project**

Working with B & E Construction Corporation of Stoughton, MA our Water Department Construction crew installed 360 feet of 12 inch water main leading up to the Merriam Avenue bridge over route 2. Replacement of this bridge then began in June, 2003 and construction will continue in 2004 and be completed sometime in the fall. The cost of this project is \$1.4 million paid for with State Funds.



**Merriam Ave. Bridge**

### **Hamilton & Crawford Street Traffic Signals**

This project, delayed twice already, has now been scheduled for Public Bid on November 18, 2003. This project will provide much needed improvements to this busy intersection. Project Cost \$563,000.

### **Route 13 Bridge**

This historic, but badly deteriorating, bridge is scheduled for Public Bid on December 9, 2003 with construction to begin in 2004. Projected Cost \$2.245 million.

### **Route 13 Paving**

The paving of Route 13, Main Street has been on hold quite some time. Work planned is for granite curbing and construction of new sidewalks from J/A School to Lunenburg town line and the paving of this busy roadway. Public Bid date is February 10, 2004. Project Cost \$1.888 million dollars.

### **Lancaster/Leominster Interchange Improvements**

The old Route 2 exit 34 ramps will be replaced by more modern exit ramps in the area of the State pit near Lancaster Golf. After work is completed, the old exit ramps will be removed. Public Bid on November 13, 2003. Project Cost \$1.64 million dollars.

### **Route 12 North Main Street**

This project, in the planning stages for over 5 years, is still on hold due to problems with land taking issues. Both Phase I & II involved widening Route 12 from Erdman Way in Leominster to Bemis Road in Fitchburg.

**\$7,736,000 in Proposed MA Highway Projects to improve travel in Leominster.**

## Street Paving Program

The city paved several streets beginning in August, 2002. A large portion of Lancaster Street was paved from downtown to Cedar Street. Drainage improvements were included under the railroad bridge, which had a long history of flooding. In addition Eastern & Tolman Avenue were paved as well as Foster Court, Sanderson Street and Helena Street. West Street was paved by Water Department funds after the new 30 inch water main was installed by a private contractor.

A major portion of the Mechanic Street Connector was repaved and Traffic Lights were installed in fall of 2002. In addition to the above, we did a \$30,000 crack fill program on side streets for the third year in a row. This will prolong the life of these streets during a time where Chapter 90 paving money is at reduced levels.

## Sidewalk Construction

New sidewalks were constructed in several locations during Fiscal '03. A new bus stop sidewalk area was built in front of Priest Street School in August. New granite curbing and concrete sidewalk has given this area a much-needed facelift.

A new piece of sidewalk was installed at the corner of Laurel & Spruce Street in August also.

Pearl Street was the recipient of a \$7100 CDBG Streetscape Grant. The DPW installed 282 feet of new granite curbing and concrete sidewalk, planted several trees and installed an ornamental fence along the sidewalk near the Veteran's House.

Prospect Street was the major project during this year. Over 2000 feet of sidewalk was added from Haskell Avenue to Lawrence Street, with new berm, at a cost of \$51,284. A second portion, amounting to 1475 feet, was installed from Lawrence Street up to Scenic Drive at no cost to the City. Keyspan paid for this work after installing a new gas main along the edge of the road. They also overlaid a portion of sidewalk across the street that was disturbed last year. The cost of the sidewalk cost Keyspan a grand total of \$38,350, a tremendous savings for the city.



Viscoloid Ave.

A second private contractor was involved with installing granite curbing and concrete sidewalk on the corner of Lancaster Street and Viscoloid Avenue. Boucher Construction installed 280 feet of granite curbing and 308 feet of concrete sidewalk on Lancaster Street. They then did an additional 271 feet of granite curbing and 383 feet of concrete sidewalk on Viscoloid Avenue. The city provided materials only at a cost of a little more than \$14,000. This project saved the city approximately \$36,000 if it was done by private resources. Boucher then installed a planted area along the entire back perimeter of this sidewalk and the Forestry Department helped install 8 new trees, something not seen in this area since 1935.



Lancaster St.

These are two examples of private contractors being good citizens while saving the city a considerable amount of money. This certainly is a huge help to the City during these difficult economic times.

## **Stormwater Management**

EPA passed the Phase II Storm Water Final Rule which meant the city had to implement the six “ minimum control measures” to satisfy requirements of this legislation. The DPW has developed a Stormwater Implementation Plan which was drafted, signed and sent in with a Notice of Intent in March 2003. We must now;

**\*\*Year 1-Complete a citywide map of the storm water system including all outfall locations**

**\*\*Year 2-Develop a city ordinance, train public employees, evaluate 1/3 of the storm sewers for illicit discharges**

**\*\*Year 3-Evaluate another 1/3 of the storm sewers, correct illicit discharges identified in year 2, and implement a household hazardous waste collection day.**

**\*\*Year 4-Evaluate the remaining storm sewer and correct illicit discharges identified in year 3**

**\*\*Year 5-Eliminate the remaining illicit discharges identified to date**

This Department continues to work with staff at Woodard & Curran to remediate contamination problems at the WWTP and Wachusett Reservoir Pump Station.

## **Revenues Raised by DPW Staff**

Once again the DPW used creative means to raise money to pay for Building Improvements and applied for and received several grants. The list follows:

<b>FEMA Grant Hurricane Allison</b>	<b>\$392,000.00</b>
<b>FEMA Grant Presidents Day Storm</b>	<b>92,615.32</b>
<b>Tree Grants—DEM</b>	<b>3,070.00</b>
<b>MRIP Recycling Grants</b>	<b>8,610.00</b>
<b>Sale of Drott Excavator</b>	<b>18,000.00 (Office Heating System)</b>
<b>Sale of Bucket Truck</b>	<b>26,000.00 (Maintenance Heating System)</b>
<b>Prospect Street Sidewalk Additional 1400 feet of new sidewalk</b>	<b>38,350.00 Keyspan Paid for This</b>
<b>Keyspan past due road openings</b>	<b>24,826.00</b>
<b>Verizon past due road openings</b>	<b>455.00</b>
<b><u>Total FY'2003</u></b>	<b><u>\$603,926.32</u></b>



## Water Department

### Capital Improvement Projects

The goal of the Water Department Construction crew is to complete the replacement of 2 miles of old water mains per year. In Fiscal '03 total work completed was 12,283 linear feet which converts to 2.33 miles of pipe replacement.

The highlight of this construction season was the final completion of a new 4000 foot 30 inch water main on West Street. This line, the major feed to Leominster, replaces an antiquated 20 inch line which has seen several breaks over the last several years. This project, completed May 2003 has been planned for almost 10 years and should provide clean, safe drinking water for over 50% of Leominster for the next hundred years.



**Installing pipe on Fairview St**



**Paving Machine  
Ditch Paver**

Planned work for 2004 include continuing the water main from West Street onto Lindell Avenue and upgrading the main on Maple Avenue. As part of an EDA Grant it may be possible to upgrade some of the antiquated lines that service our customers in Lunenburg in the Summer Street area. Myrtle Street, Daley Street, Winter Street, Willow Street, Westminster & Wilderwood Avenues are all on the list for Capital Improvements. Work included under this program is and has been done by private contractors, including Tandem Construction and J. Granese & Sons.

In the winter of 2002, a privately hired Forester started harvesting timber in the Haynes Reservoir watershed area. This is the first of our Watershed

Management programs designed to thin out and care for the areas that comprise our city watersheds. This thinning will guarantee the long term health of these stands of trees and thus ensure the cleanliness of our reservoirs. The city will realize a profit of over \$24,000 through the sale of this timber and it is believed that the entire watershed properties of our Water Department owned land will yield over \$250,000 in this program.

In addition to the above, the Water Department construction crew working with Blanchflower Logging cleared and removed trees along the Haynes Reservoir dam.



**Reservoir Forest**



**West St. Bypass**

## Water Source Development

The Maguire Group is working with the City and DEP to evaluate costs of treatment for Wass Meadow, which then can be used as a new source of water during summer months, the heaviest demand period for our water system.

Southeast Well Field is another source being considered to supplement our other sources during heavy demand periods. A bedrock well has been drilled and, again, the City is working with DEP on the evaluation of treatment methods for this potential new water source.

## Rehabilitation of Dams

The City has bid the installation of a redundant water line from Goodfellow Pond to the Water Treatment Plant at the NoTown Reservoir. Construction of this line should begin in winter 2003-2004 and be completed by Spring. The Simonds Pond dam will then be repaired as well as the Goodfellow Pond dam. This work has been planned as part of meeting the requirements of our Water System Master Plan developed 3 years ago. After this work is complete, we will move on to the repair of the dam at Morse Reservoir on Elm Street.

A construction schedule, provided by The Maguire Group, shows that the repair work to Goodfellows, Simonds Pond and Morse Reservoir will commence this year and run through May 2005. This schedule has allowed us to prepare a bond issue for \$5,000,000 to cover all design and constructions costs associated with this massive project. A rate increase, passed 3 years ago, will pay for these costs and will not result in any additional rate increases in the near future.

### Water Main Replacement Projects

Hayes Street	6 inch	520 feet
Fairmount Street	6 inch	90 feet
Graham Street	8 inch	660 feet
Fairview Street	8 inch	1696 feet
Dingley Street	8 inch	620 feet
Sanderson Street	8 inch	990 feet
Lunenburg	8 inch	2250 feet
Bella Vista	8 inch	1100 feet
Merriam Avenue	12 inch	360 feet
West Street	30 inch	4000 feet

**Total Replaced 12,286 feet = 2.33 miles**

All pipe replaced was with Ductile Iron pipe with a life expectancy of 100 years.

### DPW Miscellaneous Facts & Figures

Catch Basins Cleaned	2954	Salting & Sanding Events	35
Snow Storms Plowed	15	Total Snowfall	100 inches
Various Types Signs Installed	238	Sidewalks Installed	4800 feet
Street Miles Swept	195	Crosswalks Painted	251
Stop Bars Painted	246	Centerlines Painted	150,270 feet
Potholes Fixed	2490	Curbing Installed	4216 feet
Sand for Ice Control	8957 tons	Salt for Ice Control	3995 tons

Swept 195 miles of streets after Spring thaw.



**Rebuilt Utilities  
Sanderon St.**

### Crew Members

Rick Bachand: Foreman,  
Mike Russo: Equipment operator  
Chuck Bergeron: Pipe fitter  
John Bessette: Truck driver  
Dave LeBlanc: Laborer

## Sewer Department

For the first time, in recent memory, there were more house service problems than main line blockages in our sewer system. Our department tracks emergency call ins and our records indicate 61 blockages caused by main lines and 63 blockages that were located in household service lines. These numbers reflect our renewed preventative maintenance program performed by our Sewer Crew. Newly appointed Sewer Foreman, Steve Fini and crew members Dick Allen and Leo Rajotte have spent a great deal of time cleaning and water jetting main sewer lines that have been problem areas in the past. This has led to fewer main line blockages in general and proves the value of a daily/weekly/monthly maintenance program. This department is vigorously working to make our antiquated sewer system better and is concentrating efforts on the Industrial Road sewer trunk line and the Exchange Street-Rockwell Pond lines that are both under a moratorium imposed by DEP. A recent EDA grant received through the efforts of Roger Brooks, Water & Sewer Business Manager, is a major step in the funding of repairs and upgrades necessary for the Industrial Road sewer trunk line.

In addition to the above our Sewer Crew has been doing major maintenance on sewer trunk line easement areas to make them more accessible for routine cleaning, most notably the North Street sewer line in North Leominster.

## Doyle Field



Joe Love & Elio

Doyle Field remains a very visible and well-used recreational area for thousands of city residents on a daily and weekly basis. Walkers are seen at all times of the day from early Spring until the first snowfall. Over 100 sporting events take place on the playing fields of this historic park. Baseball, football, soccer and field hockey are played there by the respective girls and boys programs of Leominster High School. Semi-professional football, Senior Babe Ruth, American Legion and Over 50 baseball is played through most of the summer. LHS Graduation and Starburst are two major events that take place during the beautiful month of June. Leominster Youth Soccer plays a spring and fall schedule and a Leominster team plays in the Uruguayan Soccer League in the fall.

The Doyle Field Foundation has been formed to plan the long-term future of this special piece of Leominster property. A 25 year plan focuses on the future of this space and how they and the residents of Leominster perceive this park and it's surroundings to look in the future years. An ambitious fundraising program should begin in early 2004 with the replacement of the football bleachers looming as the first major replacement project. An overlook of this hallowed ground is planned as well as the long term display and preservation of the historic Leominster Sporting Events that have taken place at our beloved Doyle Field.

To help in the near term, Jason Lucier, a scout from Troop 44 in Fitchburg, worked with fellow scouts to build 8 new park benches that have been placed in and around Doyle Field and Carter Park. This project earned Jason the designation of Eagle Scout, the highest rank achievable in scouting.

Two long-term supporters of Doyle Field were honored this past June with the installation of new Memorial benches in the Blue Devils royal blue. Joe Love and Elio Torcoletti will be forever remembered by generations of Leominster residents for their combined 30 plus years of service to the city by serving on the Doyle Field Commission. This prestigious commission oversees the daily operation of the 37 acres that make up Doyle Field. Both men served many years as Chairman and both have spent countless hours at the fields both in an official and volunteer capacity. For their efforts-we sincerely send our Thanks for a job Well Done!



## Evergreen Cemetery

The long awaited demolition and reconstruction of the Cemetery Garage building began in October 2002 with the demolition of the old wooden structure in the front. A footing and foundation was then formed and poured. Roof construction began and was halted due to an early arrival of winter. This project continued in the spring with a new roof being installed and the building receiving a coat of stucco and then paint. New garage doors followed and new gas heat and a sheet rock ceiling will be installed by the CTE house building crew.

Approximately 17 acres of the cemetery grounds were infested with grubs. During spring and summer, the Cemetery staff spread grub control on these infected acres, then slice seeded affected areas and then fertilized same. This process successfully restored these areas and are again looking healthy. A total of 121 burials took place at Evergreen during this past fiscal year, 74 full burials and 47 cremations. The restoration of Haws Chapel remains a priority and work is being planned for 2004 with donated benches, carpeting and a fresh coat of paint planned for ceiling and walls.



**Peak Performer**

The Cemetery staff spent 47 days, with 3 mowers, cutting grass in the Evergreen Cemetery. An additional 3 mowings were completed at Pine Grove Cemetery. A total of 9 days were spent picking up leaves in both Cemeteries. Trash was picked up along the entire perimeter of the Evergreen Cemetery 2-3 times a week from spring until winter. In addition to the above, the staff worked with City Gardener, Clarence DeMar, to plant the island in front of the bus stop at the Common. This area was planted with over 200 wave petunias, paid for by MA Electric, and was a show piece for the entire summer, well into the fall. Flowers were also planted along City Hall for the Johnny Appleseed Festival and at the city Parking Garage on Church Street, placed in planter boxes built by them. Large concrete urn planters were placed along each side of the new Mausoleum sidewalk and planted. The crew was also involved with the establishment of a butterfly garden at Fall Brook School. They planted many of the plants seen there now and helped with the planting of the trees. This was the city Arbor Day program for this past year.



**Project Bird**

### Crew Members

DeMar: Foreman,  
Buzz Berger: equipment operator,  
Steve Graves: laborer  
Josh LaPointe: grounds keeper.



## Forestry & Parks

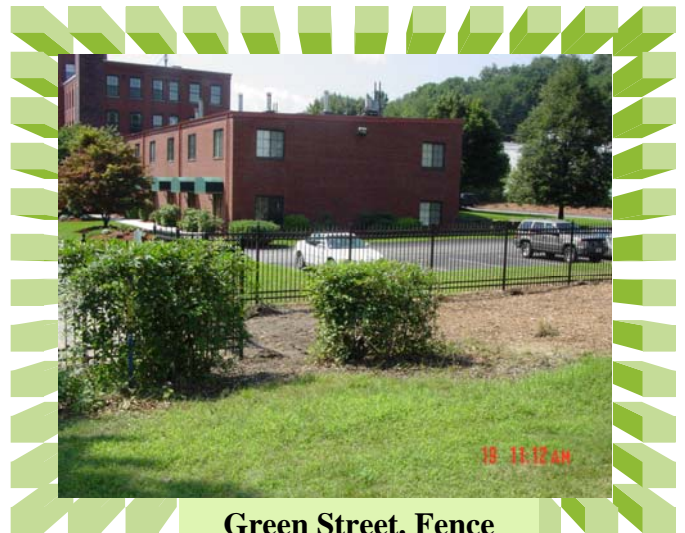
Leominster was again awarded the Tree City designation for the year 2002, mainly through the efforts of our Forestry Staff.

### Forestry Staff

Neil Taylor: General Foreman  
 Ralph Person: Foreman  
 Steve Aube: Bucket truck operator  
 Kevin Caefer: Laborer  
 Bob Letellier : Laborer  
 Tom Bissonnette: Laborer

### Highlights from Forestry

Trees Removed	91
Stumps Removed	63
Trimming completed	94
Plantings	10



Green Street. Fence

In addition to the above, the Forestry crew mows the Common, Central Square, Carter Park and Doyle Field from May through October. In addition the crew worked with the Athletic Department marking the fields for baseball, football, soccer and field hockey. We cut 65 road miles of brush and an additional 15 brush complaints were done by hand.

In May the crew spent two full days cutting brush along the Monoosnoc Brook at Friendly's Restaurant in the downtown area. This work was done in advance of the annual cleanup of the brook done as part of the Monoosnoc Greenway Project, an annual cleanup of the area all the way to Searstown Mall.

### Vehicle Maintenance Division

Eldin Plankey, foreman, Brian Nash & Bob Ouellette, mechanics.

This past year they performed 430 services of various types to 56 Highway Department vehicles. In addition, they did 202 service requests to Water, Forestry, Cemetery and Sewer Department vehicles.

This crew also volunteers their personal time to driving truck to remove old clay from Samoset Ball Field and other city functions during the year.



Meco Island